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MISSISSIPPI Star

VOL. 1, NO. 1 AUGUST 1996

Contents

DEPARTMENTS

4 PUBLISHER'S PAGE

6 INSIGHT

7 BOOK REVIEW

8 IMPORT/EXPORT

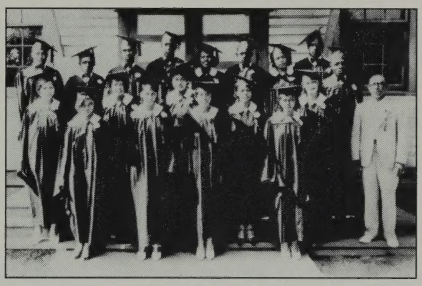
15 OPINION POLL
How do we get past church burnings?

16 CULTURE

24 SOMETHING TO PRAY ABOUT

31 NEWS BRIEFS

34 EVENTS CALENDAR



18 *33rd Avenue Class of '33*

12 *Gifted Coast soprano Trina Carter-Smith*

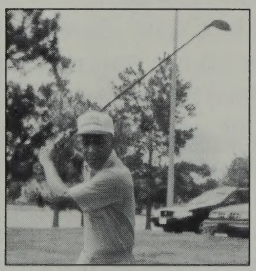
FEATURES

12 SOPRANO SINGS FOR GRACE

18 33RD AVENUE SCHOOL REUNION

26 HEALTH WALK

28 A BRAVE RETURNS TO ALCORN



28 *Coach Whitney on campus*

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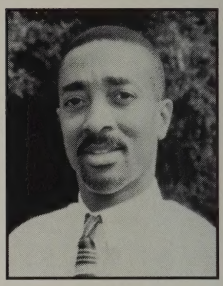

Maurice E. Singleton, Jr.

PUBLISHER'S PAGE

I would imagine that as you picked up this magazine that your mind was overwhelmed with questions along the lines of "What is Mississippi Star?" "Is it a new magazine?" "How long has it been around?" and "Who is this Maurice E. Singleton, Jr.?"

Let me begin by saying that *Mississippi Star* is a magazine committed to the positive reflections of African American lives in and from Mississippi. As a star has five points, *Mississippi Star* will focus on five values of a healthy and productive community — **Family, Health, Education, Business** and **Culture.**

Although this is the premiere issue of *Mississippi Star*, the development of the idea goes back some twenty-plus years before I earned a degree in journalism at the University of Southern Mississippi. I realized back then the value of magazines such as *Jet* and *Ebony* in terms of providing examples of achievers and of the opportunities awaiting me provided I applied myself and worked hard toward achieving my goal.

Today, there is even a greater need for media to focus on achievers, accomplishments and the like. Media is often referred to as a "mirror" of our society. If this is the case, very little of what I read in the newspapers or watch on the evening news represents me, my friends, the people with whom I worship or the people with whom I exchange waves over the course of a day.

Media is most effective when it impacts lives in a positive and productive manner. Experience has shown me that good role models produce good citizens and good citizens make good role models. My hope is that *Mississippi Star* is a good citizen.

Please read *Mississippi Star* and be sure to participate with us in our opinion poll and letters section. Also, if your organization has an event forthcoming or if you are aware of an upcoming event which may be of interest to South Mississippians, mail the details to us so that it may be considered for inclusion in our calendar. Enjoy *Mississippi Star.*

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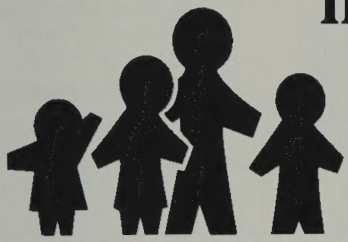

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INSIGHT

According to **Milton Creagh,** the United States is going after the wrong target in its efforts to eliminate drug use in our communities. "You can't help the children without helping the adults," Creagh told an audience of Hancock County business owners during a luncheon at Torgy's Restaurant in Casino Magic. "Seventy-four percent of dope consumed in the United States is consumed by adults in the work place."

Creagh of Stone Mountain, Georgia, who returned to the Coast after several previous consulting missions, delivered his message of focusing on drug abuse in the work place during four meetings over a three-day lecture tour on the Mississippi Gulf Coast in June.

"YOU CAN'T HELP THE CHILDREN WITHOUT HELPING THE ADULTS..."

Creagh said that through programs like D.A.R.E. (Drug Awareness and Resistance Education) and the use of motivational speakers in the schools, we target children in elementary school, figuring that if we get them early enough, by the time they are confronted with drugs, they will know enough about the potential dangers of drugs to refuse them or to "just say no."

According to Creagh, when children see their parents abusing drugs, their risk factors to use drugs increase exponentially and the potential benefits of participation in programs such as D.A.R.E. are virtually eliminated.

Creagh's four talks to Coast parents and business people were sponsored by Peoples Bank.

MISSISSIPPI Star

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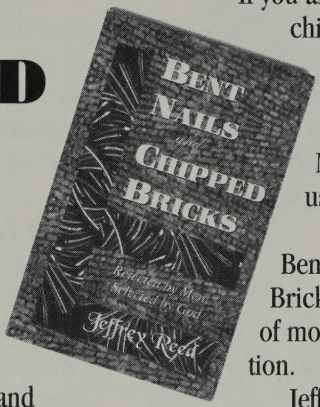
BOOK REVIEW

BENT NAILS *and* CHIPPED BRICKS

AUTHOR: *Jeffrey Reed*



Jeffrey Reed takes his readers on an excursion of hope, through which all sights are seen through the eyes of God. Those addicted and afflicted with diseases of the earth are recognized for what their potentials are in God's kingdom, instead of their earthly socioeconomic shortcomings.

An engineer and contractor, Pastor Reed encourages his readers to see the power of God as he discerns the value of people rejected by society by using, as a foundation, items tossed aside and rejected by builders - bent nails and chipped bricks - at the construction site of a church he was building. The imperfect materials were deemed unacceptable and unfit for building.

Reed imagined God asking him, "What are all these bricks laying on the ground?" Consistently and convincingly, Reed demonstrates God's view of potential and hope, compared to man's view of despair. The book's subtitle, *Rejected By Men, Selected By God* aptly describes its contents.

If you are a bent nail or a chipped brick that has been rejected by man, Reed points out that God, the Master Builder, can use you.

A "must read," Bent Nails & Chipped Bricks contains 114 pages of motivation and inspiration.

Jeffrey Reed is the Pastor of Power House of Deliverance Ministries in Bay St. Louis, MS.★

Keesler Federal extends their warmest wishes to the publisher & staff of Mississippi Star Magazine. May your success be continuous.

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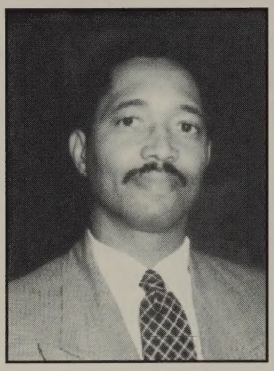

Robert Boone - Ohio native

By Maurice E. Singleton, Jr.

IMPORT • Export

Robert Boone is the vice president of Human Resources and Risk Management with Biloxi-based Casino America, Inc. One of the highest ranking African Americans in the gaming industry, Boone credits the area people as one of the primary reasons for accepting this position two years ago. After seeing the Mississippi Gulf Coast for himself and meeting the people, Boone says that he was "pleasantly surprised" and was sure that the Casino America, Inc. position was right for him.

"I am very impressed with their acceptance of outsiders in terms of getting involved in the community," Boone added. It was just over two years ago when a headhunter contacted the Ohio native regarding the executive-level position. The opportunity appeared to be attractive, but initially Boone had reservations about moving to Mississippi.

"Why would I want to move to a place that is regarded one of the poorest states in the country?" was one of the questions Boone pondered. Another question was, "If the illiteracy rate was anything like the media reported, how much of a problem would that be for a vice president of Human Resources and Risk Management who would have responsibility for training the work force?" "This was a much different picture from the Mississippi I had known on previous visits to the state," Boone said. "I would never have known that Mississippi had beaches."

"I WOULD NEVER HAVE KNOWN THAT MISSISSIPPI HAD BEACHES."

And while his new perception of Mississippi has been mostly positive, Boone says there are some downsides, but they are few. He points out that fastfood restaurants close earlier here than in Minneapolis, Reno, or other cities in which he has lived or visited; and furniture stores are closed on Sundays.

"Getting use to small town living has been the biggest adjustment," Boone affirms. "Life is a little slower here." Boone, however, has managed to make the most of the time a slower lifestyle provides. An avid runner, he logs twenty-five to thirty miles a week, running before he goes to the office. And if that's not enough to keep the athletically fit executive in shape and

fresh for the next challenge of the job, he also finds the time and energy to bicycle in the evenings after work and on weekends.

A certain amount of power comes with being a vice president within any organization. Boone, of course, appears to be quite comfortable with his power. In fact, he appears to be driven by what the power of his position offers others who are going after their dreams.

He is particularly proud of his involvement in a joint mentoring project with Harrison County District IV Supervisor, Robin Midcalf. Twenty-five Belair Elementary fourth grade students have been matched with mentors from a variety of backgrounds and experiences; and they will meet a minimum of four hours each month through high school graduation and into college.

Boone has also been involved in Casino America's commitments to minority education, historically black colleges and universities and minority business development in Louisiana.

The Isle of Capri Casinos in Bossier City and Lake Charles, Louisiana have committed $1 million to Grambling State University and Southern University with Liberty Bank, a minority-owned bank in Baton Rouge as the bank of record for deposits and distribution.★

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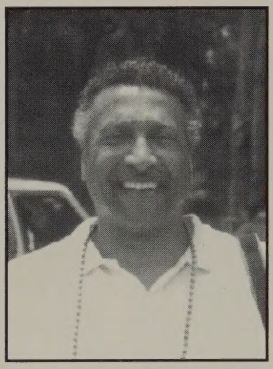

Ronald R. Lawrence - Gulfport native

Import • EXPORT

"This takes us back to a time when we were a community," said Ronald R. Lawrence, explaining his feelings about the successful turnout of former students at the Thirty-Third Avenue High School reunion over the fourth of July weekend.

Lawrence currently holds the position of vice president of North American Signaling with the Adtranz Corporation.

The 1964 graduate of "Thirty-Third" said that the difference with education then and now is very clear. "Back then the teachers really cared about us. They made us feel we could achieve anything." Lawrence is a very good example of that. The former "Thirty-Third" quarterback left the state to achieve his goal of becoming an engineer. After being denied admission to college engineering programs inside Mississippi on the basis of race, he went on to earn an engineering/math degree from the University of Detroit.

"We applied to Mississippi State and Ole Miss, and of course we were denied; but they recommended that I find a school with an engineering program and the state would pay for it." Lawrence explained that because the predominantly black colleges did not offer engineering, his college costs were paid for by the state under the "separate but equal" doctrine.

Lawrence attributes a great deal of his success to the people who surrounded him during his days at "Thirty-Third." "When you have people surrounding you who care about you and your development, you learn to respect people, and you begin to learn to respect yourself. Self respect promotes self confidence."

Lawrence, his wife Valerie and their three children currently reside in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.★

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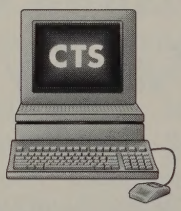

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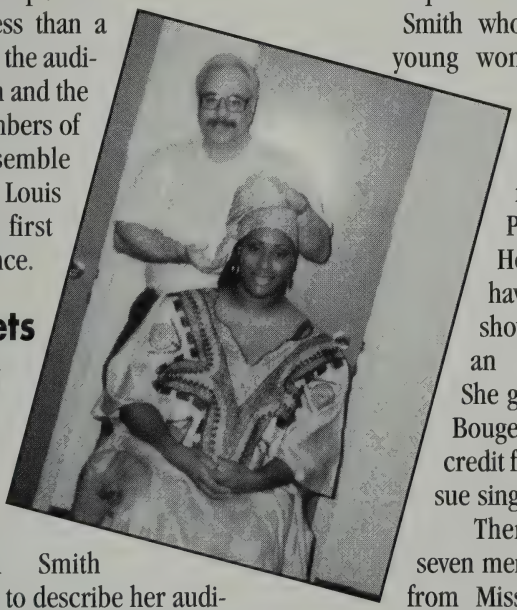
YOU GO TRINA!

By Stacy James Mackey

Soprano Sings for Grace

On Thursday, June 6, 1996, in a quiet choir room of the music building of Jackson State University, Biloxi's Trina Carter-Smith had the honor of displaying her vocal prowess for opera's internationally renowned Grace Ann Bumbry. So why did this accomplished Diva of the Opera fly from New York to Jackson to hear Trina sing? I suppose Smith's astounding vocal range could provide the answer.

In 1995, Bumbry organized the Black Musical Heritage Ensemble, selecting classically trained singers, musicians and dancers. Smith's godmother, Ester McCready, arranged an audition for her with the director, Jonathan Morris. Little did Smith know when she began to lift her voice in song that Ms. Bumbry would be in attendance. Smith said that an intense feeling of stress overcame her during the audition at the thought of the Ms. Bumbry hearing her sing. Ms. Bumbry was impressed with the local songstress, and she immediately added Smith to her Ensemble. Smith became a quick study, and after only a few rehearsals she had established herself in the group's harmony. Less than a week after the audition, Smith and the other members of the Ensemble flew to St. Louis for their first performance.



Trina gets dressed for big night.

When Smith was asked to describe her audition adventure, through sparkling eyes she said, "It was FABULOUS! I have always wanted to sing professionally, but to be able to sing spirituals makes this even more dear to me."

.....

"I have always wanted to sing professionally, but to be able to sing spirituals makes this even more dear to me."

.....

The group's repertoire consists of the old heartfelt negro spirituals blended with contemporary gospel sounds. Smith says that she particularly enjoys the challenge of the style of music and the vocal techniques that are required to sing opera.

Smith who began singing as a young woman in high school, never dreamed that while trying to emulate vocal extraordinaires like Leontyne Price and Whitney Houston that she would have the opportunity to showcase her talent with an international troupe. She gives her cousin, Stacey Bougeios-Cobb, some of the credit for inspiring her to pursue singing.

There are approximately seven members in the Ensemble from Mississippi; Smith is the only member from the Gulf Coast. The group is scheduled for a summer stop in Vienna, Austria and a concert in New Orleans in early November.

A graduate of Xavier University of

New Orleans with a Bachelor of Music - Vocal Performance, Smith has performed for an assortment of special events including weddings and church programs. Her goal is to establish a program where youth can study a wide range of music.

Smith, her supportive mom, Hilda; loving husband, Mark; and their daughter, Markina, are currently stationed at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Mississippi.★

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GRACE ANN BUMBRY

Founder of the Black Musical Heritage Ensemble

Grace Ann Bumbry, born in 1937 in St. Louis, Missouri, daughter of a freight handler and a Mississippi school teacher, defied the struggles of the civil rights era to become a world-wide opera sensation. At age 17, Bumbry was encouraged to enter a local radio station talent contest. She won and received a $1000 war bond, a trip to New York and a $1000 scholarship to the St. Louis Institute of Music.

The school's Board of Trustees was less than enthusiastic at the thought of having a young black woman sit side by side with white students at that time. The Institute offered Bumbry private lessons instead of regular school admission. A hurt Bumbry rejected their offer.

The radio station, in an attempt to smooth the situation over, arranged for Bumbry to sing on Arthur Godfrey's nationally televised "Talent Scouts" program. Bumbry astounded the audience with her rendition of "O Don Fatale." Not only was Godfrey moved by Bumbry's talent but she soon became flooded with offers from schools more acclaimed than the St. Louis Institute of Music. Bumbry had triumphed despite discrimination.

Some of Bumbry's career accolades include Paris Opera debut,1960, as Amneris in Verdi's *Aida*; first black artist to appear at Bayreuth, debuting as Venus in Wagner's *Tannhauser*, 1961; Metropolitan Opera debut, 1965; sang title role in Richard Strauss's *Salome*, Covent Garden, 1970; sang role of Abigaille in Verdi's *Nabucco*, 1981; Bess in Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*, 1985; and Cassandra in Berlioz's *Les Troyens*, 1990.

Background information on Grace Ann Bumbry provided by Contemporary Black Biography.

Rising Above The Ashes

If a church in your community was destroyed by fire, how would you help that church family rise above the ashes?

SABRINA CHESS: Age 9
28th Street Elementary School - Gulfport

"I would try to think of a place to have service until the church could be rebuilt. I would begin prayer and fasting and have a prayer vigil for those who did this. I would tell people we will overcome."

JALEA ADAMS: Age 10
Anniston Elementary - Gulfport

"I would donate some of my money to help build a new church and pray that we would get a new church."

LILLIAN MORRIS: Age 11
Batesville Junior High - Batesville

"I would help rebuild the church."

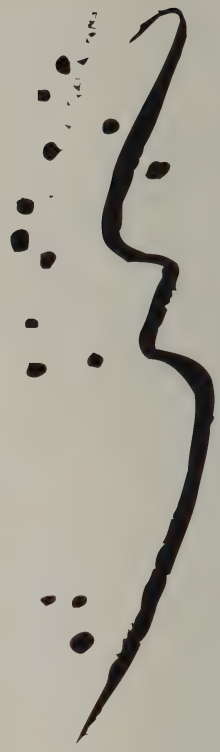
KIMBERLY MARTIN: Age 14
Our Lady Academy - Bay St. Louis

"It would be terrible if something like that happened to our church. It would be devastating but we'd get over it in time. And we'd become more unified."

ANTHONY "T.J."HOLTON, JR.: Age 13
Bayou View Junior High - Diamondhead

"I would be a volunteer to help everyone to build the new church and I would help raise money."

Soul Dance



Yesterday, I woke up and you were alive in me.
All man, caressing with your eyes,
Holding me captive with your smile.
I was taking a familiar stroll,
Then I saw you, strong and bold;
Telling stories of loving, of living,
Not knowing that I was looking deeper,
Searching for your hidden mystery
That only a matching Soul can see.

Today, you walk . . . and dance in my Soul
I see you standing in the distance,
Even when someone else I behold.
Then, I close my eyes
And other senses are reborn.
Even in the darkness, you are the light
That warms me and promises
A sweet and slow romance.
At this moment, my Soul has joined you in a sweet dance,
Suspending us in time while drifting on the wings of delight,
I wonder if everything with you feels so overwhelmingly right.

Tomorrow, is a mystery,
Whose secret no man holds.
Even as we laugh and listen,
Praise and ponder,
Yearn and yield, our Soul dance continues.
I marvel in the magic
As tomorrow's secret blossoms and unfolds.

By Charlotte Phinisee 1996

Self

What does a young black woman
think of when challenged
by the word "self?"
I know what the pro afrocentric
crowd would say. . .
You are an African queen,
a nubian princess,
mother of the earth and
keeper of our families.
Self defined as a tough sista
who is Oh so fine
and has it goin' on!
Well, I don't feel like that.
Self.

What does the Bible say?
Eve, the lower rib of Adam
Wo-man, the extension of man
meant to be a God given mate.
The perfect companion
to the perfect man.
Then Eve,
lead Adam astray.
Now where does that leave me?
Self.

A Miss 90's thang with a J-O-B
telling the world that I can do this
without a man
all the while inside
hoping for the right man.
Attitude and snapped fingers
mixed up between Christianity
not knowing where the balance
should be.
Wanting the best and most out of life
fighting to not be caught up in
prestige and materialism.
Self.

What *does* a young black woman
think of when challenged
by the word "self?"
Struggling with self-confidence
but maintaining a business facade
while at night praying for strength
to hold it together.
Trying to take the time
to smell the flowers
but feeling the tick tock pressure
to get a marriage, a child and a career.
I'm NOT that super woman.
Self.

So complicated and not easy to define.
A forever changing bundle of emotions,
passion, joy, sadness and hope.
Mostly Hope.
Hope that I can be better tomorrow
than I was today.
Hope that I can share part of my "self"
with someone else.
Look at Whoopi - she dares
to be different.
Janet - it's a crime to be that cute.
Oprah - business woman extraordinaire.
Go O!
Where do I fit it? The answer is I don't.

When I looked up to the sky,
the peace finally came.
Jesus told me to come as I am.
So I gave Him my. . . "self."

By Renee 1994

God Bless

"A Tie Th

What a turnout! Over 700 alumn
Gulfport Fourth of July weekend to celebrate a
"A Tie That Binds" was the theme hundreds emb
a particular graduating class; it was a reur

So what made th

★ Star Story

33rd Avenue Trojan Band

'Ole 33rd!

at Binds"

aculty, staff, family and friends gathered in
commemorate the historic 33rd Avenue School.
ed during reunion weekend. It wasn't a reunion of
n for everyone who had ever attended 33rd.
eunion so special?

By Stacy James Mackey

Thirty-Third Avenue School was the Gulfport school for "Coloreds". African Americans of all grades from Gulfport, Pass Christian, Bay St. Louis, Landon, Wiggins, Turkey Creek and neighboring communities all attended.

All who attended the celebration were overwhelmed by the high intensity of love and joy of reuniting with friends whom they had not seen in years. "The reunion weekend was just fantastic! Everybody was so happy. Hugging and kissing was all that was going on!" beamed '37 graduate and former 33rd teacher, Aurabelle Caggins. The weekend activities included an informal *meet and greet*, a family picnic, an *old school* tour, class night, a show-stopping parade, a banquet and ball, and a final 'goodbye for now' gathering. It was a five-day nonstop festival of laughs, smiles, memories, friends and love, all reflecting on an era when African Americans came together to learn.

At the dining room in Caggins' home, she recapped some of her memories of those years. She recalled how the original schoolhouse, which was built in the early 20's, had burned down. It was frustrating trying to find places for classes. Groups met in churches temporarily, but were soon asked to leave. Many felt that if it appeared that students had adequate facilities to meet, the city would do nothing to replace the school. Classes moved to the Navy base and a few other scattered locations until the government provided for a new school in 1952. Gulfport was given a federal grant of $661,308 to build a junior-senior high for blacks. Thirty-Third Avenue became home to an elementary school and a junior-senior high.

Caggins, a home economics teacher at the time, remembers the move to the new school. "It was refreshing for the students to be blessed with all new equipment instead of used or worn."

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 22]

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EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

(Students are served lunch at 33rd)

Yvonne Chess, a '67 graduate, recalls how every classroom had prayer before the pledge of allegiance each day and "Few kids got in trouble back then because the teachers knew your parents. You would be in trouble for sure when you got home." Chess' fond memories consisted of Friday assemblies, where each class displayed their talents; teacher Thomas Lewis; and the fellowship of parents and teachers.

"FEW KIDS GOT IN TROUBLE BACK THEN BECAUSE THE TEACHERS KNEW YOUR PARENTS. YOU WOULD BE IN TROUBLE FOR SURE WHEN YOU GOT HOME."

Caggins laughed as she watched some of the former students crowd into the old gymnasium reunion weekend. They began cutting up on the stage and giggling just as they did years ago. Caggins reflected on how very meaningful graduation exercises were. Receiving an education was highly esteemed back then. "We always wanted everything to be picture perfect so even the hems of the graduation gowns had to be the same length. One girl showed up with her gown much shorter than the others. We scurried frantically trying to let down the hem so it would be the same distance from the floor as everyone else's. During the reunion events, that very young lady brought with her a picture of me with the ruler measuring her hem from the floor! Both of us remembered that day!"

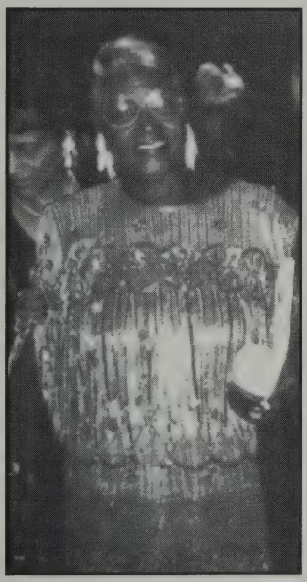
In 1967, as integration really began to sweep the nation, students were offered a chance to leave 33rd Avenue School. Only small numbers left. Fewer than 20 black faces appeared in the '67 class pictures of East High's yearbook and fewer than a dozen in Gulfport High's annual. Unfortunately, 33rd never captured their school days in yearbooks.

Ninety-two students graduated in 1969, the closing year of the school. Teachers were split up and assigned jobs across the Coast. Most of the new assignments were not desirable positions, however, many accepted what was offered. Caggins eventually taught at East High until retirement.

Since the closing of 33rd, a shirt manufacturer offered to purchase the buildings. A concerned group opposing the purchase banned together to insure the school would remain an educational complex. Job Corps eventually moved into the vacant building.

The class of '63 undertook the

33rd Alumni celebrate with a parade down 30th Avenue in Gulfport



Ms. Aurabelle Caggins decked out at the reunion ball!

task of renaming the facility. They settled on naming it the Wayne F. Calbert Complex in honor of Calbert who served as 33rd's last principal. "We were products of Calbert's leadership. It was only fitting to honor him in that way," noted Charles Dubra, class president.

"I remember the first time the band director let us play rock 'n roll in the stands at football games." Dubra, a trumpet player, recalled how the band would have the audience rocking and singing whenever Lem Barney made a great play.

Dubra was appointed chairperson of the committee to reunite former 33rd Avenue students and faculty. Friends had suggested for years that Dubra organize a reunion because his graduating class remained in contact with each other. The challenge of coordinating an all-school reunion seemed overwhelming until Dubra's dear friend Lawrence Johnson offer to assist him. Dubra credits the events success to planning that goes back two years.

"The highlight of the weekend had to be the parade!" Dubra exclaimed. "I got the idea of having a parade because I played in the school band." Dubra doubted whether a parade had passed through the neighborhood since the school closed.

[Continued on page 24]

SOMETHING TO PRAY ABOUT

Who's IN THE Pulpit?

By Stacy James Mackey

As I sit in a pew every Sunday morning for worship, I see called men of the ministry in crisp suits, silk ties and austere robes. However, there have been Sundays when I've seen women in the pulpit. I reflect on the fact that an increasing number of churches have female ministers gracing their pulpits.

My study of women in spiritual leadership led me to lots of interesting text. Scripture does let us know that it was not unheard of for women to be gifted with divine inspiration. In Old Testament times, the gift of prophecy was bestowed upon Miriam (Exodus 15:20); Deborah (Judges 4:4); Huldah (2 Kings 22:14); Noadiah (Nehemiah 6:14) and Isaiah's wife (Isaiah 8:3). Even with Biblical references of women who prophesied, women ministers have not always been welcomed.

Here are some struggles and achievements of a few African American women in the ministry. Julia Foote, born 1823 in Schnectady, New York, had often spoken out against women preaching until the day God "called" her. Black ministers during those time challenged the right of women to preach so Foote knew the battle she faced. An uncompromising sense of faith carried her through a career where both white and black came out to hear the words she spoke. In 1898, Mary Small and in 1900, Julia Foote, became "the first women to achieve rights of full ordination to the ministry by any Methodist denomination, black or white."

Around 1842, Harriet Ann Baker, a young teen showed interest in the ministry but was immediately disillusioned because members of her church in Colombia, Pennsylvania told

her "that God never intended for women to preach the gospel." Within three weeks after delivering her first sermon in Brownstown at a white Evangelical church thirty years ago, 72 souls had been converted.

At the National Baptist Convention in 1900, speaker Nannie Helen Burroughs of Virginia used as a topic "How The Sisters Are Hindered From Helping." Burroughs went on to become a prominent Baptist leader.

In 1979, Barbara Harris became a deacon and a year later became a priest. Harris became the first female bishop in the Episcopal church.

Today, women are excelling in leadership roles in the church in great numbers. First Missionary Baptist Church of Handsboro pastored by Reverend S.V. Adolph, Jr., has five male associate ministers and three female. Reverend Bobbie Hays of First Missionary recapped her first thoughts before announcing her calling, "Initially, I wondered what everyone would think, but now I'm just focused on doing God's will." Hays accepted her calling to preach in July of 1990 and recalled the restlessness and tugging on her heart which was not relieved until she surrendered to God. Hays credits Reverend Margaret Nelson, former member of First Missionary as a mentor who now serves as pastor of St. Peters Baptist Church in Amherst, VA. "The Lord spoke forcefully to me through His word - 'Preach The Word'."

Sharon Jenkins is one of the newest editions to the First Missionary Baptist Church ministry team. Jenkins' husband Allen has been a minister for the past two years. God used Sharon to play an instrumental role when Allen was called to preach. Allen wasn't surprised when his wife told him of her calling. Sharon spoke about her relationship with God: " I'm in love with God and I'm giving Him this whole vessel of mine." Sharon announced her calling in June and will deliver her first sermon in early August. "God can call whomever He wants to call. God *can* use women to minister. Just think of the blessings people are missing when women aren't allowed in the pulpit."

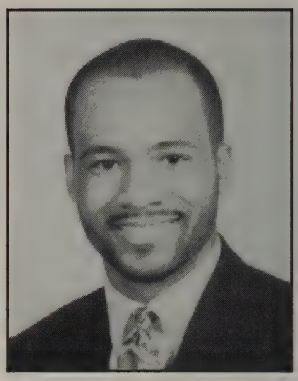
"Just think of the blessings people are missing when women aren't allowed in the pulpit."

Women in the pulpit had never struck me as controversial because when I prepare my mind to hear a sermon, the speaker diminishes and the spoken word captures my attention. God's Word does say that in the last days He will use His sons and His daughters to prophesy. I have a hard time believing that our Almighty God is limited in the tools He can use to accomplish His will. Are you available for Christ to use?

I hope I've given you something to pray about.★

Please send responses to P. O. Box 2651, Bay St. Louis, MS 39521. Some references were taken from *African America - Portrait of a People* by Kenneth Estell and *Notable Black American Women* by Jessie Carney Smith and my Living Application King James Bible.

Point of **HEALTH**



If you want to change the way you think and the way your body feels, then consider walking as a way of life.

By Lawrence McNair, D.C.

Walking is easy, convenient, virtually stress-free and to start doesn't require any special gear with the exception of a pair of heavy socks and a good pair of walking shoes.

Almost anyone, at any age and in just about any physical condition, can walk. When we compare this to other exercise options, walking is also the least complicated.

A good walking program, consistently followed and done correctly, can bring about great health and psychological benefits. The advantages certainly outweigh the disadvantages. According to the U.S. Centers for disease control and prevention, physically active people on average outlive inactive people, even if they start their activity later in life.

Walking can be an excellent addition to an overall weight loss program. You can expect to feel more energized as well as see an improvement in muscle tone. Physicians often encourage recuperating patients to take a daily walk in order to strengthen their hearts, back muscles and to increase their lung capacity. Studies indicate that walking stimulates blood circulation, reduces cholesterol and blood pressure levels, and helps to prevent and control diabetes.

Before beginning walking or any other exercise program, be sure to visit your physician for a fitness evaluation, especially if you are overweight, suffer from heart or respiratory disease, or have some other chronic medical condition. Make sure that your shoes are comfortable. Most sport stores can recommend a good pair of walking shoes.

Where you walk is also very important. Select a place where others walk. Several coast hospitals have fitness tracks, which provide a safe place and you can track your distance.

Most importantly, it's best to start slow. Begin with a local walking club, or join fundraising walks such as the March of Dimes or other local walks in your community. Get your families and friends involved. You may even become a walking leader at work, motivating others by your own energy and example.

Happy walking!★

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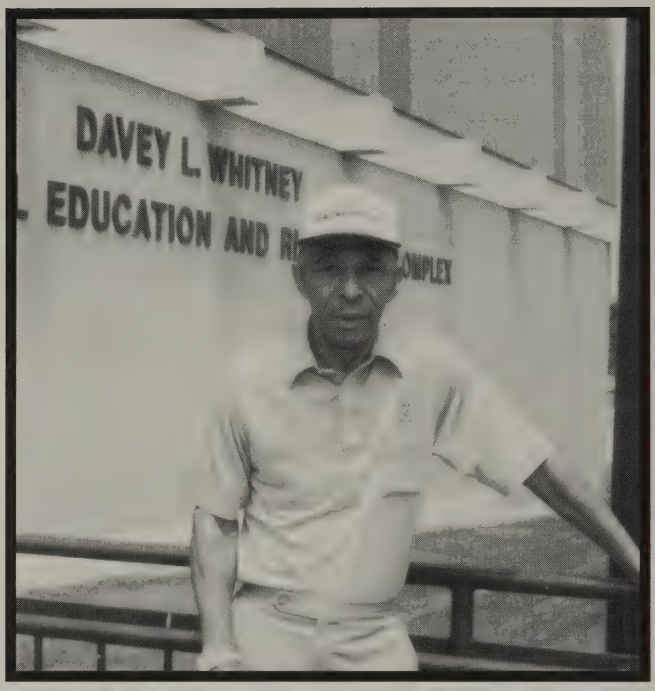


Whitney stands in front of the building which bears his name.

DAVEY L. WHITNEY *has returned to the place where most of us first learned of him - COURTSIDE at Alcorn State University's men's basketball games.*

A BRAVE GOES HOME!

By Maurice E. Singleton, Jr.

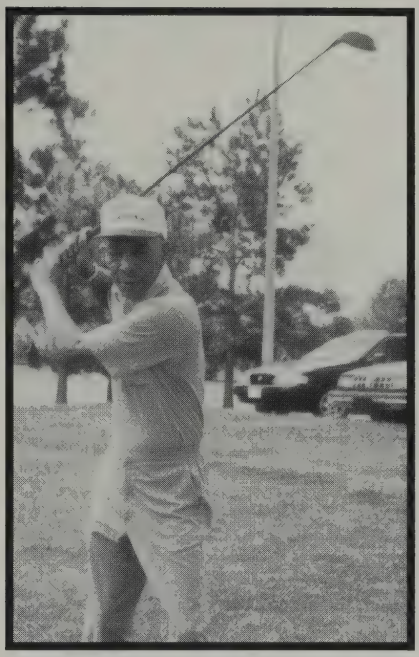
After being away from the team for six years, Whitney has accepted the position of head coach and the challenge of putting the Braves program "back on track."

Whitney stated,"I didn't like seeing them down," as his primary reason for returning to Alcorn. "I was really reluctant about getting back into it (coaching), but I wasn't afraid of the challenge confronting us. The challenge confronting him is returning the Alcorn State University men's basketball program to where it was during his first twenty years at Alcorn in which his teams won nine regular season Southwestern Athletic Conference championships, played in three NCAA post-season tournaments, two NIT tournaments, five NAIA tournaments and twelve seasons with 20 or more wins.

"We're going to be successful."

"We're going to be successful," Coach Whitney said when asked if he'll be able to duplicate his previous success at Alcorn. "I can't say that we'll go 28-1 or 29-3 as we did in the 1979-80 and 1980-81 seasons, but we will be competitive."

Whitney said that the college game hasn't changed much in the six years he has been out of college basketball. "More teams are playing pres-



Whitney practices swing to rejoin golf buddies at Alcorn

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sure defenses, but the players are about the same. You still have to run, shoot, jump and pass."

Coach Whitney will be inheriting at least one player who can either run, shoot or pass better than the average player. Returning point guard, Reuben Stiff was named SWAC Freshman Player of the Year. The Braves also signed Brian Adams, a 6'5" forward from Piney Woods School who was named Most Valuable Player in the Mississippi-Alabama High School All Star Game. It appears that Alcorn State University has at least some of the pieces of the puzzle in place to return its men's basketball program to the prominence it knew not very long ago. But, can that be achieved in "two years, three max" which is the time frame Coach Whitney has committed to the University before he returns to Biloxi to retire?

"There's very little difference between winning and losing,"

Coach Whitney clarifies that his goal is to put the Alcorn men's basketball program on track and to teach the players how to win on this level. "There's very little difference between winning and losing," explains Whitney who says that his greatest enjoyment comes from "taking a kid and watching him do the things he has been taught - successfully."★

Mississippi Representation In 1996 NBA Draft A New Record

NBA teams drafted an unprecedented three players with ties to Mississippi in first round of its annual draft. Lorenzen Wright, a native of Oxford was drafted by the Los Angeles Clippers as the seventh overall pick of the draft. Mississippi State players Erick Dampier and Dante' Jones were selected with the tenth and twenty-first overall picks. Dampier a native of New Hebron was selected by the Indiana Pacers; Jones went to the New York Knicks.

Othello Harrington of Georgetown University and a native of Jackson was drafted by the Houston Rockets in the second round with the 30th overall pick. Marcus Mann of Mississippi Valley State University went to the Golden State Warriors as the fortieth pick. Gulfport native, Ronnie Henderson was drafted by the Washington Bullets with the fifty-fifth pick.

[33RD REUNION CONTINUED]

Party time on the dance floor reunion weekend!

"We got together some majorettes, a band, and the folks loved it!"

With so many not wanting the weekend to end, lots of ideas were suggested at the last committee meeting to help the unity continue. Dubra considered the networking potential of 33rd alumni. He envisioned a web page on the internet where graduates from other states could log on to the latest information on fellow classmates, ongoing events, and more. Dubra sees the 33rd family sponsoring scholarship funds, possibly business investments and becoming a force throughout the nation. "It can happen when the group pools their resources and educational expertise."

No one could seem to put into words precisely what the weekend meant to them. Only smiles and tears captured the emotional high the special event gave so many. Dubra is letting all know that the next gathering will be in 1999. Caggins expressed the general agreement of 33rd's first all school reunion, "I can't wait until the

News Briefs

GULFPORT On July 10th, two six-year old boys died as a result of separate water-related accidents. *Ricardo Meggs* of Gulfport was pronounced dead at Gulfport Memorial Hospital after wandering out into five feet of water in the Mississippi Sound. *Pierre L. Jones* of Wiggins was pronounced dead at the University of South Alabama's Doctors Hospital six days after a July Fourth accident at a local motel.

JACKSON *Rosa Parks*, 83, made a stop in the capitol city during her nationwide tour, "Pathways to Freedom" which commemorates the 40th anniversary of her actions which sparked the Montgomery bus boycott. Parks spoke to a youth group at Smith-Robertson Museum.

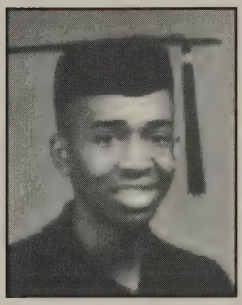
HATTIESBURG *Demoted Fire Dept. Captain James Stuart* was denied his former position by the state Court of Appeals in June. Stuart's demotion resulted from comments made before a '92 class at the National Fire Academy in Maryland. In a discussion regarding estimating required personnel to aggressively fight an inside fire, Stuart explained that estimates had been easier, "...but now I have to use no-good niggers and women to fight a fire."

COAST *Amtrak Limited* began a ninety-day trial schedule along the Coast in June. The train departs Mobile each morning making stops in Pascagoula, Biloxi, Gulfport and Bay St. Louis before arriving in New Orleans and makes its return trip later that same evening.

BRIGHT YOUNG STARS

Monique Hazeur • *Our Lady Academy*

Monique is one of four students in the state to receive the $1500 Okolana Scholarship which is based on community service and academic achievement. Monique graduated fourth in a class of 43 students at Our Lady Academy in Bay St. Louis. She will attend New York University this fall to begin her studies towards a bachelor's degree in social work. Monique is the daughter of Honore and Shelley Hazeur of Bay St. Louis.



Cedric McGee • *D'Iberville High*

Cedric is a recipient of the Councilman Andrew Penrow Scholarship which is based on leadership, scholarship and extracurricular activity. Cedric ranked sixth in D'Iberville High School's class of 161. Cedric will attend the University of Mississippi this fall to begin studying toward a double degree in history and political science. His parents are Georgia McGee and the late Donald A. McGee of D'Iberville.

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"In Order to SUCCEED One Must BELIEVE"

by Chari Lee

OUTSIDE WORD

Chari Lee

My Mother, my teacher, my friend. Words to describe the one person who has seen me through it all and who has molded me into the person and graduate I am today. Her constant encouraging voice, telling me that I was capable of achieving all things possible led me to graduate with honors.

Graduating twenty-first in a class of one hundred sixty-five students and maintaining Alpha Honor Roll over the course of my high school years was not easy. I often found myself doing homework on dark buses traveling to and from basketball and softball games and track meets.

At one time, I worked three part time jobs to raise money to attend Our Lady Academy, in hope of receiving a better education. Although this goal was not realized, I learned the value of family support. Sometimes I wondered if I could uphold the task of working three part-time jobs, classroom responsibilities and extracurricular activities. But these words, "One must believe in order to succeed," instilled in me by my Mother and my Aunt Rhonda echoed enthusiastically throughout the challenge.

One of the most surprising things that has ever happened to me was to be the recipient of the Principal's Award. Seldom did I hold conversation with Mrs. Sandra Reed, but it was sincerely gratifying to know that she realized what I was going through.

This fall I will be attending Tougaloo College to major in nursing. I have reviewed the curriculum, and I have realized that the next four years will be quite challenging. For the first time in my life my Mother and my Aunt won't be in the next room to offer guidance. But I am up for the challenge; I feel I can conquer the world. For "One must believe in order to achieve." I am a believer.

Chari Lee graduated from Bay High School this past May. She is the daughter of Darlene Lee. She has three sisters.

Star Calendar

AUGUST 3
New York Jets and Houston Oilers
NFL Exhibition Football Game
Mississippi Veteran's Memorial Stadium
in Jackson • 7 p.m.
Tickets: (800)488-5252

AUGUST 9
Minority Business Development
Committee • Small Business Skills
Development Workshop • Seabee Base,
(Seabee Museum) • 7:30 a.m.
Information: Call Renee' at 863-2942

AUGUST 9
Boxing: James Toney vs Duran Williams
Casino Magic, Bay St. Louis • 7:30 p.m.
Ticket Information: (800)5MAGIC5

AUGUST 11
Greater St. John AME Church
116th Anniversary
608 E.Division Street, Biloxi
Information: 432-2874

AUGUST 19
NAACP Meeting Hancock Co. Chapter
St. Rose de Lima Parish Hall
301 Necaise Avenue, Bay St. Louis
7:00 p.m.
Fr. Francis Theriault
Information: 467-7347

September Opinion Poll:

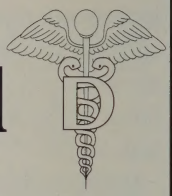
What do you think of Governor Kirk Fordice's insistence on keeping his four original college board nominees after they failed to be approved by state legislators?

Letters to the Publisher should be 100 words or less. **Star Calendar:** Events of interest to South Mississippians should be submitted on your organization's letterhead, specifying the date, time, place of event and a number of contact.

Submissions should be received by the tenth day of the preceding month. Be sure to include a daytime telephone number. Mail submissions to Mississippi Star, P.O. Box 2651, Bay St. Louis, MS 39521.

Mississippi Star reserves the right to refuse or decline to publish any submission.

Dunn Dental Clinic



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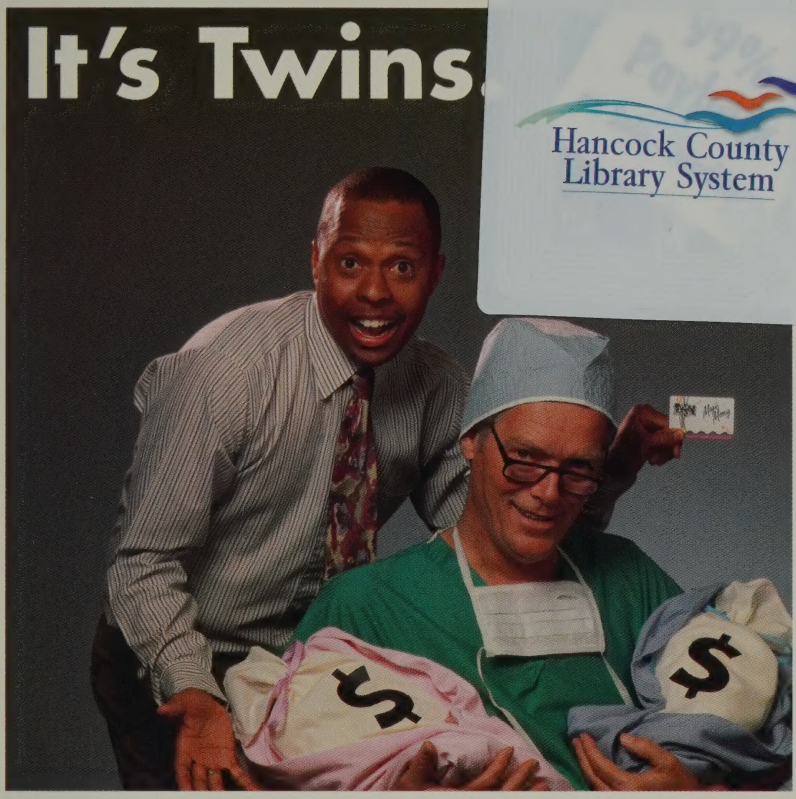

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